California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Francisco Bay Region

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Agency Secretary

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Invitation to Comment on Proposed Draft Remedial Action Work Plan for

Sugar City Building Materials 800 San Pablo Avenue, Pinole, California

July 2007

Summary

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board) is forwarding this fact sheet to notify the community about the proposed cleanup activities for the Sugar City Building Materials site that operates at 800 San Pablo Avenue in Pinole, California. The cleanup plan consists of dual-phase extraction of soil gas and groundwater to remove petroleum hydrocarbon compounds from the subsurface.

We invite any interested parties to comment on the proposed cleanup plan. Written comments are due to the Water Board at the above address by September 3, 2007.

Background

The subject site is currently engaged in the production and sale of building materials, primarily ready-mix concrete, and is bordered to the south by San Pablo Avenue, to the east by a commercial office development still under construction, to the west by Pinole Shores Drive and to the north by Southern Pacific railroad tracks. The southern edge of San Pablo Bay is located down slope about 1,500 feet to the north (see Figure 1).

Formerly, the site maintained two underground storage tanks (4,000 and 12,000 gallon) to fuel

concrete trucks. These tanks stored gasoline and diesel fuel. Evidence of fuel line leaks was discovered during removal of the USTs.

As required by the Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Program, 6 soil borings were drilled and sampled to evaluate the extent of fuel contamination at the site. The sampling showed that there are elevated concentrations of gasoline and diesel in the shallow soil and groundwater at the site.

Depth to groundwater at the site fluctuates between about 5 and 15 feet below ground. The on-site groundwater flow direction is northerly toward San Pablo Bay. Groundwater near the site is not used for drinking or any other purpose.

Site Investigation

The property owner has installed and is sampling six monitoring wells at the site to track groundwater conditions in areas where fuel leaks occurred and to verify the direction of groundwater flow. These wells are sampled on a quarterly basis.

Proposed Site Cleanup

Two full-scale pilot studies utilizing a large vacuum blower to remove soil vapor and groundwater were conducted in May and August 2006. These tests showed conclusively

that dual phase extraction of soil vapor and groundwater coupled with air injection is an effective way to remove residual hydrocarbons from soil and groundwater beneath the site. Due to the success of the Pilot Tests, this same method is proposed in the Remedial Action Work Plan

A dual phase extraction system consists of a large blower that provides a vacuum on a vacuum extraction well and provides pressure on several air injection wells such that soil vapor and groundwater are removed from the extraction well. Soil vapor is separated from groundwater in a knockout tank and the vapor phase is treated with granular activated carbon prior to discharge. The water phase is stored in a 6,000-gallon tank and is later hauled offsite for treatment.

Water Board Oversight Process

As part of this process, we circulate key documents, such as draft cleanup plans, to interested persons and provide an opportunity for comment on these documents. Interested persons may include other agencies, local officials, non-profit organizations, and interested landowners and residents/occupants in the site vicinity.

We invite any interested persons to comment on the proposed cleanup plan. Written comments are due to the Water Board at the above address by September 3, 2007.

The Water Board oversees more than 3,000 site cleanup cases in the Bay Area, including more than 2,000 leaking fuel tank cases. Water Board staff direct investigation or cleanup work and set cleanup standards under Water Code authority. Responsible parties (e.g. past operators) propose specific measures, perform the actual work, and submit technical reports documenting the results.

We invite any interested persons to comment on the Remedial Action Work Plan. Written comments are due to the Water Board at the above address by September 3, 2007.

For More Information

If you have questions please contact:

Martin Musonge. at Water Board

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Information Repositories

The site documents are available for public review at the following locations:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Francisco Bay Region 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400 Oakland, California 94612 Tel: (510) 622-2382

State Water Resources Control Board website: http://geotracker.swrcb.ca.gov case # 07-0804

